ED 406 188 NATURE AT YOUR DOORSTEP: REAL WORLD INVESTIGATION FOR PRIMARY STUDENTS.

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ABSTRACT

"Nature at Your Doorstep" is an outgrowth of a successful environmental education program offered as a school field trip at a Nature Discovery Center. It was developed and used with thousands of students throughout Bellaire, Texas and the surrounding Houston metroplex. The purpose of this program is to kindle students' curiosity and wonder about the interdependent world of nature of which they are a part, and to foster their responsibility toward the environment. Each unit is designed to guide students through discovery of basic biological concepts using the scientific method as a logical method of inquiry. Students explore questions, formulate hypotheses based on current knowledge, collect data relevant to the questions, and, by creating various forms of representations, analyze their data to formulate conclusions and compare those conclusions with their hypotheses. The 10 units are as follows: (1) Senses; (2) Trees; (3) Birds; (4) Insects and Neighbors; (5) Ants; (6) Biodiversity; (7) Habitats; (8) Communities; (9) Food Webs; and (10) Endangered Species. Each unit provides focus and background material, activities to introduce the topic, suggestions for teaching each data sheet, and extensions for further study. Student data sheet masters are included. All units are integrated with opportunities for learning experiences in science, mathematics, and language arts. (PVD)

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